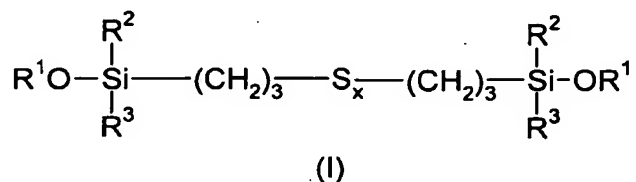


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended): A tire incorporating an elastomeric composition based on a diene elastomer, a reinforcing inorganic filler and a bis-alkoxysilane tetrasulfide, wherein said tetrasulfide of alkoxysilane satisfies the formula (I):



in which:

- the symbols  $\text{R}^1$ , which may be identical or different, each represent a monovalent hydrocarbon group selected from ~~among~~ the group consisting of alkyls, whether straight-chain or branched, having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms and alkoxyalkyls, whether straight-chain or branched, having from 2 to 8 carbon atoms;
- the symbols  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$ , which may be identical or different, each represent a monovalent hydrocarbon group selected from ~~among~~ the group consisting of alkyls, whether straight-chain or branched, having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and the phenyl radical; and
- x is between about 3 and about 5.

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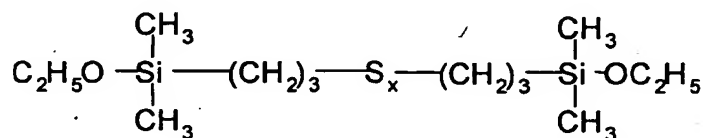
see claims 3, 44, 69, and 72.

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2. (Currently Amended): The tire according to Claim 1, wherein:

- the symbols  $R^1$  are selected from among the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl and isopropyl;
- $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are selected from among the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, n-hexyl and phenyl.

3. (Original): The tire according to Claim 2, wherein the alkoxy silane is the bis-monoethoxydimethylsilylpropyl tetrasulfide of formula (III):



(III) (abbreviated to MESPT)

4. (Original): The tire according to Claim 3, wherein x lies within a range from about 3.5 to about 4.5.

5. (Currently Amended): The tire according to Claim 1, wherein the diene elastomer is selected from among the group consisting of the group consisting of polybutadienes, natural rubber, synthetic polyisoprenes, butadiene copolymers, isoprene copolymers and mixtures of these elastomers.

6. (Currently Amended): The tire according to Claim 5, wherein the butadiene or isoprene copolymers is selected from among the group consisting of the group consisting of butadiene-styrene copolymers, butadiene-isoprene copolymers, isoprene-styrene copolymers, butadiene-styrene-isoprene copolymers and mixtures of these copolymers.

7. (Original): The tire according to Claim 5, wherein the diene elastomer is a butadiene-styrene copolymer (SBR) having a styrene content of between 20% and 30% by weight, a content of vinyl bonds of the butadiene fraction of between 15% and 65%, a content of trans-1,4 bonds of between 20% and 75% and a glass transition temperature of between -20°C and -55°C.

8. (Original): The tire according to Claim 7, wherein the SBR is a SBR prepared in solution (SSBR).

9. (Original): The tire according to Claim 7, wherein the SBR is used in a mixture with a polybutadiene having more than 90% cis-1,4 bonds.

10. (Original): The tire according to Claim 5, wherein the diene elastomer is an isoprene elastomer.

11. (Original): The tire according to Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises between about 10 and about 200 phr (parts by weight per hundred parts of elastomer) of said reinforcing inorganic filler.

12. (Original): The tire according to Claim 1, wherein the quantity of alkoxysilane is between about 1 and about 20 phr.

13. (Original): The tire according to Claim 1, wherein the quantity of alkoxysilane represents between about 0.5 and about 20% by weight relative to the quantity of reinforcing inorganic filler.

14. (Original): The tire according to Claim 1, wherein the inorganic filler has a BET specific surface area of between about 60 and about 250 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

15. (Original): The tire according to Claim 1, wherein the inorganic filler comprises between about 50% and up to 100% silica.

16. (Original): The tire according to Claim 1, wherein the inorganic filler forms the entire reinforcing filler.

17. (Original): The tire according to Claim 1, wherein the reinforcing inorganic filler is used in a mixture with carbon black.

18. (Original): The tire according to Claim 17, wherein the carbon black is present in an amount of between about 2 and about 20 phr.

19. (Original): The tire according to Claim 18, wherein the carbon black is present in an amount within a range from about 5 to about 15 phr.

20. (Original): The tire according to Claim 1, wherein said elastomeric composition is incorporated in part of the tire selected from among the groups consisting of the tread, the

underlayers, the crown reinforcement plies, the sidewalls, the carcass reinforcement plies, the beads and the protectors.

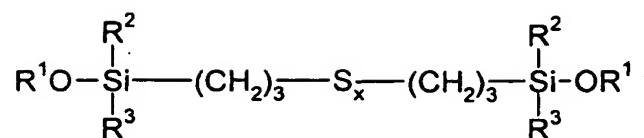
21. (Original): The tire according to Claim 1, wherein said tire is vulcanized.

~~Claims 22 – 41 (Canceled)~~

42. (Currently Amended): A process for preparing a tire ~~or a tire tread~~ having accelerated vulcanization kinetics, incorporating a sulfur-vulcanizable elastomeric composition based on a reinforcing inorganic filler, wherein said process comprises the following steps:

- incorporating in a diene elastomer, in a mixer:
  - a reinforcing inorganic filler;
  - a bis-alkoxysilane tetrasulfide;
- thermomechanically kneading the entire mixture, in one or more stages, until a maximum temperature of between about 110°C and about 190°C is reached;
- cooling the entire mixture to a temperature of less than about 100°C;
- then incorporating a vulcanization system;
- kneading the entire mixture until a maximum temperature less than about 110°C is reached;
- calendering or extruding the elastomeric composition thus obtained ~~into~~ in the form of a tire ~~tread~~ or a rubber profiled element incorporated as semi-finished product in the tire,

wherein said tetrasulfide of alkoxysilane satisfies formula (I):



(I)

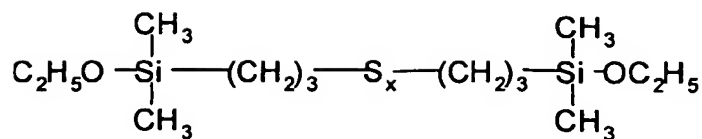
in which:

- the symbols  $\text{R}^1$ , which may be identical or different, each represent a monovalent hydrocarbon group selected from among the group consisting of alkyls, whether straight-chain or branched, having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms and alkoxyalkyls, whether straight-chain or branched, having from 2 to 8 carbon atoms;
- the symbols  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$ , which may be identical or different, each represent a monovalent hydrocarbon group selected from among the group consisting of alkyls, whether straight-chain or branched, having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and the phenyl radical; and
- x is between about 3 and about 5.

43. (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 42, wherein:

- the symbols  $\text{R}^1$  are selected from among the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl and isopropyl;
- $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are selected from among the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, n-hexyl and phenyl.

44. (Original): The process according to Claim 43, wherein the alkoxysilane is the bis-monoethoxydimethylsilylpropyl tetrasulfide of formula (III):



45. (Original): The process according to Claim 44, wherein x lies within a range from about 3.5 to about 4.5.

46. (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 42, wherein the diene elastomer is selected from among the group consisting of polybutadienes, natural rubber, synthetic polyisoprenes, butadiene copolymers, isoprene copolymers and mixtures of these elastomers.

47. (Original): The process according to Claim 42, wherein the quantity of the reinforcing inorganic filler is between about 10 and about 200 phr and the quantity of the alkoxysilane is between about 1 and about 20 phr.

48. (Original): The process according to Claim 42, wherein the inorganic filler has a BET specific surface area of between about 60 and about 250 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

49. (Original): The process according to Claim 42, wherein the inorganic filler comprises between about 50% and up to 100% silica.

50. (Original): The process according to Claim 42, wherein the inorganic filler forms the entire reinforcing filler.

51. (Original): The process according to Claim 42, wherein the reinforcing inorganic filler is used in mixture with carbon black.

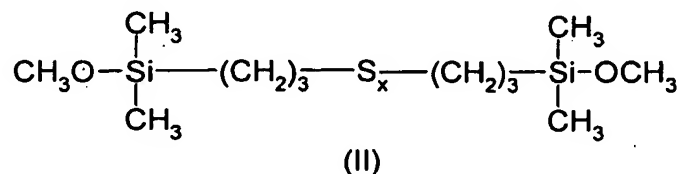
52. (Original): The process according to Claim 51, wherein the carbon black is present in an amount of between about 2 and about 20 phr.

53. (Original): The process according to Claim 52, wherein the carbon black is present in an amount within a range from about 5 to about 15 phr.

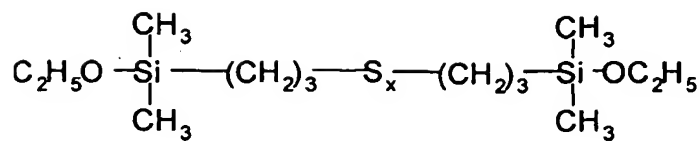
54. (Original): The process according to Claim 42, wherein the maximum kneading temperature is between about 130°C and about 180°C.

Claims 55-68 (Canceled)

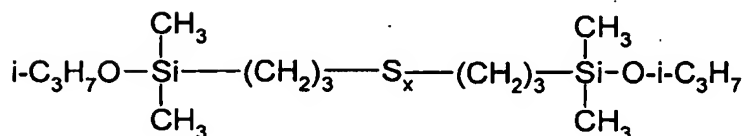
69. (New): The tire according to Claim 2, wherein the tetrasulfide of alkoxysilane is selected from the compounds of formulae (II), (III) <sup>or</sup> and (IV) :







(III)

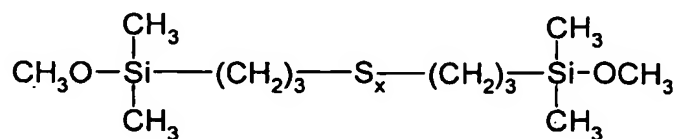


(IV)

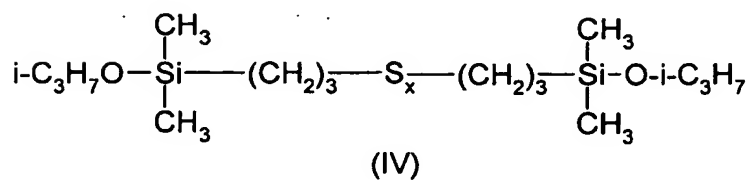
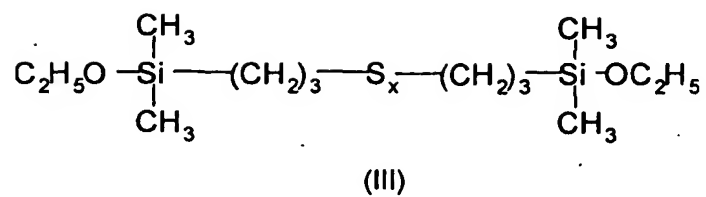
70. (New): The tire according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic filler has a BET specific surface area of less than about 130 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

71. (New): The tire according to Claim 20, wherein said elastomeric composition is incorporated in the tread of the tire.

72. (New): The process according to Claim 42, wherein the tetrasulfide of alkoxysilane is selected from the compounds of formulae (II), (III) <sup>or</sup> and (IV) :



(II)



73. (New): The process according to claim 42, wherein the inorganic filler has a BET specific surface area of less than about 130 m<sup>2</sup>/g.